

typical dusk-flier. Mr. McGlashan informs us that he always takes his specimens at dusk; the Hymers specimens were also captured at this time of day. Taking all the above points into consideration, we are inclined to think that, if not synonymous with *ganna*, *MacGlashani* is a perfectly valid species.

H. Matthewi H. Edw.

Species described from Brit. Columbia, listed by Dyar as variety of *hyperboreus*. Dr. Barnes possesses only a single rubbed male from Victoria, B. C., which is too poor to make much of. From the description it might be closer to *MacGlashani* than *hyperboreus*. The male alone was described. It behooves our Western friends to furnish good series of this in both sexes.

H. confusus H. Edw.

The type was a single specimen from Alaska. The silver banding appears from the description to be replaced by pale fawn, but we have seen neither the type nor any specimens agreeing with the description. We do not know Dr. Dyar's reasons for placing it as a variety of *hyperboreus*.

H. roseicaput N. & D.

Described from a single male (?) from Cascade Mts., B. C. The description reads rather like that of our female *pulcher* from Mt. Hood, except that this latter species has no blackish subterminal line. Possibly this may be the ♀ of *Matthewi*, described in error as a male; the localities are certainly closely approached.

A NEW SPECIES OF THE SCELIONID GENUS *ACOLOIDES*
HOWARD.

BY A. ARSENE GIRAULT, CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

Superfamily Proctotrypoidea.

Family Scelionidæ.

Subfamily Baeinæ.

Genus *Acoloides* Howard.

1. *Acoloides aureus*, species nova.

Normal position.

Female.—Length, 1 mm. Moderate in size for the genus.

Usual to the genus with the exception of the parapsidal furrows, which are slightly indicated. Winged, the wings short, with moderately

long fringes ; mandibles tridentate ; basal nervure absent. Postmarginal vein as long as the marginal or slightly longer.

Agreeing with *melleus* Ashmead, in general colour, but differing in that the first funicle joint is slightly wider than long, not twice longer than wide, distinctly not half the length of the pedicel ; also all the other funicle joints are distinctly wider than long. Also agreeing with *ochraceus* Ashmead, but the abdomen is not striated longitudinally (excepting basally at the second and third segments), the antennæ not marked with brown-black, the wings not subhyaline, but deeply fumated and with rather long fringes.

General colour honey-yellow, the vertex and sides of abdomen inclined to be darker ; eyes dark, naked ; all appendages concolourous excepting wings, which are deeply fumated throughout, the fumation deepened somewhat under the stigmal vein and including its knob. Vertex and mesonotum rather coarsely, reticulately punctured, the punctures not deep. Ocelli pallid. Venation dusky.

Fore wings much shorter than the abdomen, petiolate, the blade ovate and fringed with moderately long, silky marginal fringes, the longest of which are about two-thirds the wings greatest width ; apex obtusely pointed.

Stigmal vein long and slender, ending in a small knob ; the marginal vein very short, punctiform, the postmarginal vein moderately short, about a fourth the length of the stigmal ; discal ciliation of the fore wings dense, short, uniform ; a half dozen or more long bristles from the venation. Strigil present on cephalic legs. Abdomen depressed rounded ovate, the first and second segments longitudinally striated at base, the ovipositor exerted slightly, very slender.

Antennæ 7-jointed, capitate, the club large, solid, compact ovate, the scape long and cylindrical, longer than either the club of itself or the funicle plus the pedicel ; the latter about equal to the first three funicle joints combined (no ring joint), or slightly shorter ; funicle plus pedicel subequal in length to the club ; first funicle joint subquadrate, slightly wider than long, the other three funicle joints transverse, subequal, a third shorter than the first. Pubescence of antenna short and sparse.

Male.—Unknown.

Described from a single female specimen found mounted on a slide in a collection of some Signiphorinæ loaned to me for study by Dr. L. O.

Howard, and bearing the labels, "248. 1247. 1247 ♀. Aphel. 248 do. C. H. T. Mch. 15, 10. T. Johuaimaji. Feb. 11."

Habitat.—Peru, South America.

Type.—Type No. 14,026, United States National Museum, Washington, D. C., 1 female in xylol-balsam (mounted with a single female of *Signiphora*).

BOOK NOTICES.

THE HOUSE FLY.

"THE HOUSE FLY," by L. O. Howard. XIX + 312 pp., 1 pl., 40 figs. Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, 1911.

One of the most extraordinary examples of the fickleness of human nature is furnished by our attitude towards the commonest of all insects. Even the youngest of us was brought up in companionship with this homely creature, and taught to regard with painful horror the iniquity of destroying, however painlessly, this permanent guest. Well might we say when introducing this volume to the public, *Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis*. From the high pedestal of kindly regard *Musca domestica* has sunk to depths so loathsome and portentous as to make even an entomologist recoil from these "winged sponges spreading hither and thither to carry out the foul behests of contagion," to quote the words of Lord Avebury, written so long ago as 1871.

The credit of first seriously attracting public attention to the possible dissemination of disease germs by the house-fly belongs to investigators in the United States. The experience of the Spanish-American war, with its excessively heavy mortality from typhoid fever, was repeated in the South African war a few years later. Circumstantial evidence has been confirmed by exact experiments, which, though in many instances they may modify primary conjectures, have shown that the house-fly, if the necessary conditions prevail, will serve as a most serious carrier of pathogenic organisms. On this account, therefore, it ranks as one of the proven disease-carrying insects, and must be included with the mosquito, the tse-tse fly and the flea in that class of insects which bear a serious relation to national welfare. No one has done more to inculcate these ideas into the minds of people, obsessed with the customary apathy, than Dr. Howard, who was one of the first to consider the house-fly and to study it in its new relation, deserving well the title of "Commander-in-Chief of the Fly-fighting Army," recently conferred upon him by a well-known journal. From Dr. Howard